

Plumas Grazing Allotment Swale Exclosure

Decision Record

DOI-BLM-NV-C020-2015-0024-CX

May 2015



Introduction

The project area is located approximately 1.35 miles southwest of Hallelujah Junction, California and is within the jurisdictional boundary of the Sierra Front Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). The project area is within the Plumas Grazing Allotment.

Project Description: There is a low flow of water on some spots in an incised remnant spring area in the northwest corner of the Plumas Grazing Allotment in the West Pasture. A fence would protect this area from excessive cattle use. The project would build a 0.7 mile enclosure fence which may initially be temporary while the cattle are in the pasture and be replaced by a permanent fence based on the permit holder's schedule. The temporary fence would be constructed of electric fence tape and t-posts. The fences would have the Specifications and Requirements below.

Specifications and Requirements

Temporary Fence

The temporary fence would be constructed of electric fence tape and t-posts. The t-posts would be placed every 6 to 7 feet as needed to maintain tension on the tape. The tape would be charged by battery or generator at the discretion of the permit holder. The permit holder would supply labor and materials for the temporary fence. The range staff or support services staff would perform inspection on completion.

Permanent Fence and Gates

- Work would be performed by permittee and inspected the BLM.
- Fence Specifications. The fence would be a 4-wire "Cattle with Antelope Fence" whose design would draw on both the wildlife and engineering specifications as authorized by BLM Fencing Handbook H-1741-1 p IV-1 which references "Fences" USDI/USDA and BLM's Engineering Standard Drawings (See attached drawing Barbed Wire Fence Nevada (4-wire x 16 ½ feet) NV02834-(53)).
 - Fence would comply with the Barbed Wire Fence Nevada (4-wire x 16 ½ feet) NV02834-(53) specifications with the following wire spacing exceptions.
 - Bottom wire (smooth) would be 18 inches from the ground (antelope and fawns);
 - At least 12 inches between the top two wires (deer);
 - Total height would be no more than 42 inches, preferably 40 inches (deer);
 - Other wire spacings are to be determined, with rationale provided, and would be based on the Engineering Guide Specifications and Engineering Standard Drawings
- The enclosure would have a gate at the east and west ends for the removal of wildlife or cattle.
- Gate Specifications: A 16 foot steel frame "powder river" gate would be welded to the fence brace post. The steel gate increases the likelihood of the gate being closed after someone goes through it due to the ease of opening and closing the steel gate as opposed to the wire type gates.
- The gate shall be hung flush on one side of the brace post so that the hinges allow the gate to swing completely open and lay flush up against the fence when open. The gate shall be kept closed at all times except during actual pass through. The gate shall have a latch or chain to

keep it closed, it shall not be locked. The chain shall be welded or attached to the gate to prevent lose.

Public Involvement

This project was reviewed by an BLM interdisciplinary group in order to protect vegetation values.

Land Use Conformance

This action is in conformance with the Carson City Field Office Consolidated Resource Management Plan (2001), reference and page number citation:

Implementation Level Decisions, WAT-2, 1. "Water quality will be improved through development of watershed management plans and protection of riparian areas."

Authority


Implementation of the Proposed Action is under the authority of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976.

Rationale

The purpose of the exclosure fencing is to improve riparian functionality and land health.

Decision

It is my decision to authorize the construction of the fences as described above in the Plumas Grazing Allotment swale.

ACTING
FOR


Leon Thomas
Field Manager
Sierra Front Field Office

5/19/2015

date

APPEAL PROCEDURES

This decision may be appealed to the Interior Board of Land Appeals, Office of the Secretary, in accordance with 43 CFR Part 4. If you appeal, your appeal must also be filed with the Bureau of Land Management at the following address:

Leon Thomas
Field Manager
BLM, Sierra Front Field Office
5665 Morgan Mill Road
Carson City, NV 89701

Your appeal must be filed within thirty (30) days from receipt or issuance of this decision. The appellant has the burden of showing that the decision appealed from is in error.

If you wish to file a petition pursuant to regulation 43 CFR 4.21 (58 FR 4942, January 19, 1993) for a stay (suspension) of the decision during the time that your appeal is being reviewed by the Board, the petition for stay must accompany your notice of appeal. Copies of the notice of appeal and petition for a stay must also be submitted to:

Board of Land Appeals
Dockets Attorney
801 N. Quincy Street, Suite 300
Arlington, VA 22203

A copy must also be sent to the appropriate Office of the Solicitor at the same time the original documents are filed with the above office.

U.S. Department of the Interior
Office of the Regional Solicitor
Pacific Southwest Region
2800 Cottage Way, Room E-1712
Sacramento, CA 95825

If you request a stay, you have the burden of proof to demonstrate that a stay should be granted. A petition for a stay is required to show sufficient justification based on the following standards:

1. The relative harm to the parties if the stay is granted or denied.
2. The likelihood of the appellants' success on the merits.
3. The likelihood of immediate and irreparable harm if the stay is not granted.
4. Whether the public interest favors granting the stay.

The Office of Hearings and Appeals regulations do not provide for electronic filing of appeals. Electronically filed appeals will therefore not be accepted.